

## Special Activities

The John Marshall SWCD has been conducting several activities on an annual basis for many years.

**Conservation Field Days** are conducted for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students at local farms in Spring and Fall. Students rotate through stations to learn a variety of agriculture and natural resource topics from experts in the field.

In conjunction with the annual **Fall Farm Tour**, the District conducts a special Farm Tour for 3<sup>rd</sup> **Grade** students each September. Similar in



organization to the Conservation Field Days, students are exposed to a variety of topics in an exciting farm setting.

**Biology** students from both Fauquier and Liberty High have been involved in **stream** and **pond monitoring** for several years. Students collect macroinvertebrate samples and



conduct water tests on a monthly basis to determine stream and pond health.

The John Marshall SWCD offers assistance to teachers in planning natural resource projects and activities. Additional opportunities are frequently listed in the quarterly newsletter. To be placed on the newsletter list, call the District at 540-347-3120 x 3. To learn more about JMSWCD, visit the website at <http://www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments/jmswcd>.

## Environmental Education Programs



sponsored by the

## John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District

Education is part of the mission of the JMSWCD. The District provides SOL based resources and support for classroom teachers in the areas of science, natural resources, and the environment.

## Classroom Programs

The following programs are presented in the classroom by the JMSWCD Education Specialist.

**Soils** – Each student will make a ‘soil tube’ and learn about the soil profile, the importance of soil, and how soil is formed. This program is especially well suited for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade SOLs.

**Enviroscape** – The Enviroscape is a table top model that can be used to demonstrate watersheds, soil

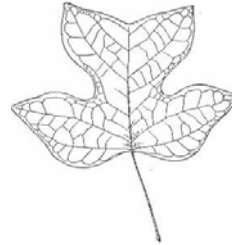


erosion, and various forms of pollution. Students actively participate in a storm event, and see the results. The presentation can be adjusted for different grade levels and several SOLs.

**Trees, Trees, Trees** – Students will learn basic tree structure and identification characteristics, as well as the importance of trees in protecting soil and water

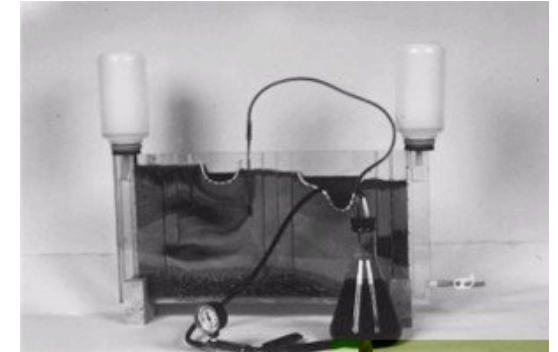
resources. This program can be done in one or two sessions.

The classroom session uses leaf samples, posters, and diagrams to discuss tree identification and structure. An optional outdoor session can involve either a tree walk on school grounds to identify and discuss specimens, or a ‘scavenger hunt’, where students look for samples and bring them back to the classroom and identify them from pressed specimens and field guides. All schools have been surveyed and the JMSWCD knows what trees are on each school property. This program can fulfill SOLs concerning trees, forests, and Virginia’s Natural Resources.



**Groundwater Flow Model** – What happens under the soil is just as important as what happens above it. The groundwater flow model demonstrates the interaction and

movement of water through aquifers, wells, lakes, and streams. Appropriate for middle and high school. The



model is shared with other Soil and Water Districts and needs to be scheduled several weeks in advance.

For additional information or assistance with natural resource studies, contact the District at 540-347-3120 x 3, or by email at [johnmarshall.swcd@vaswcd.org](mailto:johnmarshall.swcd@vaswcd.org).

The District has numerous reference books, equipment, video tapes, posters, and other supplies available for teachers to use. Teachers are welcome to visit the John Marshall SWCD Office which is located at 98 Alexandria Pike, Suite 31. Items can be sent to and from public schools by the courier.